

GOLDEN GARLAND

By C L Khatri

Gorges in glacier
truncated geography
disputed identity
cremated footsteps of Gandhi
paralyzed parliament
paranoid perception
blood flowing from Redcliffe line
MacMohan making mouth
skeleton in every cupboard
holes in every pocket
moths in the plinth of the building
saggy soiled syncretic social fabric—
the legacy of historic blunders.
Can a human tame these thunders
storming the land in full manifestation?

We are in for the worst of depletion
and the best of expression and imagination.
Rivers are sunk in their beds,
waters are effulgent on their breasts.
On the crest of the wave hopes are sailing
on falcon's back despair is flying.
In between on razor's blade I am walking
the price of indispensable democracy
for the whims of whimsical leadership, I am paying.
Toba Tek Singh still stands there asking
who authorized you to draw the line

tear apart the living mother and pine
for peace with each half of the bleeding body.
Indian sea is not enough to cleanse your hands.

Mother wants his sons to collect the strewn flower
and a weave a golden garland once again for peace and power.

Bio

Chhote Lal Khatri, Patna C.L.Khatri, a reputed, perceptive critic and editor of *Cyber Literature* and several anthologies of criticism, is an well known voice in Indian English poetry. He is a bilingual poet writing in English and Hindi. His four poetry collections in English are *Kargil* (2000), *Ripples in the Lake* (2006), *Two- Minute Silence* (2014) and "For You To Decide". He was awarded Michael Madhusudan Academy Award for his poetry collection *Kargil* in 2002. His poems are widely published, anthologized and translated in different languages in India and abroad. Currently he is Professor, Dept. of English, T.P.S. College, Patna.